permit program and participates in hearings on dams and bridges and prepares rules for the Department of Natural Resources or other state agencies. (In Wisconsin, citizens have the constitutional right to petition for rules changes.) Priority areas of concern of the intervener's office in Wisconsin are pesticides, toxic substances, wetland protection, and urban sprawl. Although each year an attempt is made in the legislature to abolish the office, there has always been enough support by those appreciating its effectiveness to retain it. Massachusetts has provisions for citizen suits to mandate governmental action, and the attorney general may intervene on behalf of citizens in any agency regulatory actions.

Recognition by public groups of outstanding achievement by an entity for taking preventive action is another offshoot of public awareness of ground water protection programs. The Governor's Commission on Arizona Environment recently awarded its Certificate of Appreciation to the IBM plant in Tucson, in recognition of its innovative plant design, which prevents any discharges of water or toxic materials.

Education and Technical Assistance

Education can play a key role throughout the ground water program, from its inception to its implementation. One of the impediments to the implementation of effective ground water protection programs is the general shortage on all levels, especially in state governments, of well-trained and experienced hydrogeologists. One function that states can serve in the educational process would be to provide more direct stimulation and support of expanded ground water and related technical academic programs in state-supported universities and colleges. The resultant increase in the numbers and quality of well-trained technical people would have long-term benefits to the general public awareness as well as to program implementation.

In 1982, the Group for the South Fork of eastern Long Island set out to educate both the public and officials in their communities about the impact of population growth and lack of land use planning on water quality and quantity. The group placed ads in local newspapers and published a booklet explaining the technical aspects of the issues and their recommendations for action. Their work resulted in public support in one community for rezon-ing to larger lot sizes and, in another, the election of a new town council dedicated to protecting the town's environment and drinking water. This has also been the case in other areas on Long Island, where materials for public dissemination ranged from sophisticated technical to broadly educational information on all aspects of water quality and protection. The